

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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April 2004

SUBJECT: Reach Out Now National Teach-Ins – April 26-30, 2004

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the upcoming *Reach Out Now National Teach-Ins* that will take place the week of April 26-30, 2004. This event is planned during National Alcohol Awareness Month to encourage communication with fifth graders on the dangers of early alcohol use.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sent to fifth-grade classroom teachers throughout the nation a two-part set of materials, *Reach Out Now: Talk with Your Fifth Grader about Preventing Childhood Alcohol Use*. This prepared teach-in curriculum, designed especially for fifth-grade students, their families, and their teachers, focuses on the dangers of underage alcohol use. To further alert children, parents, and teachers about the dangers of underage alcohol use, and to reinforce the messages in the school-based materials, SAMHSA is encouraging national, state, and local leaders to conduct teach-ins for fifth-grade classrooms nationwide. If you are planning to participate in the National Teach-Ins, I encourage you to e-mail reachoutnow@samhsa.gov so that you can be put on the map of all programs that are participating in California.

In conjunction with National Teach-Ins, the Resource Center (RC), Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP), is offering prevention publications at no cost to residents of California. Enclosed is a Publications Order Form with the list of publications, including ADP #2432 (Fifth Grade classroom curriculum material) that can be ordered by U.S. mail, fax, or e-mail. For questions regarding the RC publications, please call 1-800-879-2772. For further information regarding the National Teach-Ins, please contact Pat Green, SAMHSA/CSAP Governors' Spouses Initiative, at (301) 654-6740, Ext. 150.

Only through sustained and cooperative efforts between parents, schools, and students, can we begin to solve the problem of underage drinking. I encourage you to support the Teach-Ins and Alcohol Awareness Month.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Michael S. Cunningham

MICHAEL S. CUNNINGHAM
Deputy Director
Prevention Services Division

Enclosure

cc: Pat Green



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For energy saving tips, visit the Flex Your Power website at
<http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov>